

## House Resolution 862

By: Representatives Smith of the 113<sup>th</sup>, McKillip of the 115<sup>th</sup>, and Heard of the 114<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the *Athens Banner-Herald* on the occasion of its 175th  
2 birthday; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the history of the *Athens Banner-Herald* began on March 20, 1832, when the  
4 first issue of the *Athens Banner* was published by Albon Chase and John Nisbet; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1921, the *Banner* merged with the afternoon *Herald* and served the Athens  
6 community as a single publication, the *Athens Banner-Herald*, under the operation of  
7 Publisher Earl B. Braswell for the next 44 years; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1965, a new daily newspaper, the *Athens Daily News*, was launched by local  
9 businessman Claude Williams with the intent of challenging the new owners of the *Athens*  
10 *Banner-Herald*, William and Charles Morris, who also owned newspapers in Augusta and  
11 Savannah; and

12 WHEREAS, the newspaper battle that ensued was short-lived, however, and the purchase  
13 of the *Daily News* was announced by the Morrises on Christmas Eve, 1967; and

14 WHEREAS, the *Daily News* continued alongside the *Banner-Herald* until the two merged  
15 into a single morning paper in 2001; and

16 WHEREAS, as the readership of the *Athens Banner-Herald* continued to grow, it expanded  
17 operations by launching *Athens Magazine* in the spring of 1989 and a news website that  
18 became Online Athens in 1997 and now registers more than 5 million page views each  
19 month; and

20 WHEREAS, today, the Morris Communications Corporation of Augusta owns 30 daily and  
21 nine nondaily newspapers along with several radio stations, magazines, an outdoor

1 advertising company, and a number of other media properties scattered throughout the  
2 United States and Europe; and

3 WHEREAS, over the course of 175 years, the various incarnations of the *Athens*  
4 *Banner-Herald* have delivered quality news reportage to the residents of Athens, and it  
5 continues to captivate readers throughout the State of Georgia and the United States.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
7 this body recognizes and commends the *Athens Banner-Herald* on the occasion of its 175th  
8 birthday and extends its sincerest best wishes for many more years of success.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the *Athens Banner-Herald*.